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HOUSE RESOLUTION 16
By Roach

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Todd Collins of the
New England Patriots on reaching the Super
Bowl.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize and salute the accomplishments of our athletes who make significant contributions to the success of their teams; and

WHEREAS, with the help of Tennessee native Todd Collins, an outside linebacker, the New England Patriots have enjoyed an outstanding 1996-1997 season, finishing the regular season with an exceptional 11-5 record, beating Pittsburgh 28-3 and Jacksonville 20-6 in the AFC playoffs and reaching the prestigious Super Bowl XXXI; and

WHEREAS, Todd Collins was born on May 27, 1970 in New Market, Tennessee; he is one of the most honored athletes in the history of Jefferson County High School; and

WHEREAS, Todd was named Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association "Mr. Football" in 1987. He was also rated the top prep prospect in the country and earned National Defensive Player of the Year honors from *USA Today*, and made the *USA Today*, *Superprep* and *Parade Magazine* All-American teams; and

WHEREAS, Todd was signed by Georgia, then transferred to Tennessee. Injuries caused him to transfer to Carson-Newman College, where he was a standout performer; and

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WHEREAS, while at Carson-Newman, he was selected first team All-American by the Poor Man's Guide to the NFL Draft, first-team All-American by the NFL Draft Report and Small

College Underclassman of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Todd was drafted by the Patriots after his junior year with their first of two selections in the third round of the 1992 NFL draft; and

WHEREAS, he suffered a neck injury in his rookie 1992 season but came back with a vengeance, emerging as a starter in 1993; he finished that season with a career high 92 tackles, including a sack and an interception; and

WHEREAS, Todd started the first seven games of the 1994 season before another injury ended his season. After deciding to sit out the 1995 season, he successfully filed for reinstatement and played an important role in the defensive efforts of New England during this memorable season; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and honor Todd Collins; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Todd Collins and wish him well in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.